Main reasons for production shortfall are non-completion of modernisation scheme, system disturbances in OSEB grid, poor, and fluctuating quality of indigenous coking coal etc.

The commulative expenditure on modernisation scheme till September, 1996 is Rs. 3127 crore.

(e) and (f). Modernisation and Improvement of Plant and Equipment are continuous process as per requirement, subject to availability of funds etc. Upgradation/Improvement of Plant and Machinery at Rourkela Steel Plant is being done both as a part of ongoing Modernisation Scheme and also as a part of ongoing Addition/Modification/Replacement (AMR) schemes.

Under AMR schemes, several upgradation/ improvement schemes like upgradation of Blast Furnaces, Thyristorisation of Cold Rolling Mills etc. have been undertaken.

The modernisation scheme has been implemented in two phases i.e. Phase-I and Phase-II. In Phase-I the priority schemes for improving the quality and raw materials inputs to different plants-units have been taken up for implementation. Phase-II of Modernisation involves installaation of new shops such as Sinter Plant, Basic Oxygen Furnaces, Continuous Casting Shops etc. and upgradation of facilities in Hot Strip Mill area.

Air Cargo Traffic

1894. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the target and actual growth of air cargo at main airports during each of the last three years and reasons for shortfalls and growth projections for the next give years;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to handle growing air cargo traffic particularly in regard to strengthening, expansion and modernisation of infrastructure facilities and introduction of automation etc.; and

(c) the estimates of investment required for strengthening/expanding infrastructure network to harness growth potential in Air Cargo for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) does not fix any targets for air cargo growth. It only provides for efficient uplift of export cargo at the airports. A statement showing growth of air cargo during the last five years and the projections for the next ten years is attached.

(b) and (c). During the next ten years, AAI has plans to expand the cargo terminal buildings, develop perishable cargo terminals at Delhi and Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and provide modern modern storage/cargo transfer systems. Investments for this purpose, during the 9th Plan period is estimated at Rs. 385 crores.

STATEMENT

Growth of air cargo at main International Airports during the last five years (1991-92 to 1995-96)

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Bombay	Calcutta	Delhi	Madras
1991-92	132.3	11.1	83.8	28.8
1992-93	135.2	13.3	101.9	37.7
1993-94	143.4	15.9	115.4	46.1
1994-95	159.1	16.5	133.2	49.0
1995-96	184.0	19.2	154.6	54.6

Projection of air cargo at main International Airports during next 10 years (1996-97 to 2005-06)

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Bombay	Calcutta	Delhi	Madras
1996-97	206.1	21.5	173	61.2
1997-98	230.8	24.1	194	68.5
1998-99	258.5	27.0	217	76.7
1999-2000	289.05	30.2	243	85.9
2000-01	324.3	33.8	273	96.2
2001-02	358.4	37.3	301	106
2002-03	396.0	41.3	333	118
2003-04	437.6	45.6	368	130
2004-05	483.5	50.4	406	143
2005-06	534.3	55.7	449	159

Tourist Projects of Kerala

1895. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourist projects in Kerala sanctioned by the Government in the current plan;

(b) the details of the projects completed so far;

(c) the details of the projects under implementation;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware of the tourist potential of the snake boat race in Aranmula, Pathaanamthitta district, Kerala; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage this boat race and develop this place as a tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned financial assitance for 28 projects for the develpment of tourism in Kerala state during the current plan period.

These projects included construction of Yatri Niwases, tourist lodges, wayside amenities, purchase of boats etc. Out of these projects 5 have been completed by the State Government and remaining are under implementation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Govt. of India has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 22.40 lakhs to State of Kerala in the year 1994-95 for the construction of a tourist lodge at Aranmula, to provide accommodation facilities to tourists.

Quota at Asansol Railway Station

1896. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no quota at Asansol Railway Station for Jodhpur Express, Howrah-Gorakhpur Express, Ganga Sagar Express, Danapur Express, Lal Quila Express and Janata Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people of Asansol are demanding for alloting quota in these trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). At present reservation quotas are available at Asansol station by 5047 Howrah-Gorakhpur Poorvanchal Express, 3231 Danapur Express and 5205 Ganga Sagar Express Trains. The details are given as under :

Train No.	Quota	
	AC-2 Tier	SL
5047 Poorvanchal Express	4	52
3231 Danapur Express	-	3
5205 Gangasagar Express	-	47

As the computerised reservation facility has been provided at Asansol Station linked with the computerised passenger reservation system at Calcutta, the passengers intending to travel in other trains can seek as many reservations as required on first cum first served basis.

[Translation]

Exemption in Taxes/Tariff on Steel

1897. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance for more exemption in taxes and tariffs for the steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Ministry of Steel makes recommendations to Ministry of Finance on duty matters before formulation of the budget proposals every year. The recommendations for the year 1997-98 are yet to be finalised by Ministry of Steel.

[English]

Reservation of Seats in Separate Coaches

1898. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of passengers feel inconvenience and great hardship due to seats/berths belonging to a family are allotted in separate coaches and not adjacent to each other under the prevalent computerised reservation system; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing accommodation in the same coach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The computerised system ensures that a group of passengers booked on one ticket is normally provided berths in the same cabin. However, this is not possible in those cases where most of the accommodation has already been booked and other intending passengers have excercised their right of choice for lower berths etc. The reservation clerks have instructions that under such circumstances they should inform the intending passengers that accommodation asked for is available in a scattered manner only.

Expenditure incurred on Railway Pojects in Mumbai

1899. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimates of total expenditure, the provision and the actual expenditure during 1995-96 and 1996-97 on Borivali-Virar quadruplicating of railway lines (Western Railway), Diva Vasai Project and Diva-Panvel Project (Central Railway), project-wise;

(b) the reasons for less expenditure;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to expedite these projects during this year; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The